UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/AC.105/PV.355
2 July 1991

ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIFTH MEETING

Held at Graz, Austria,
on Wednesday, 29 May 1991, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. HOHENFELLNER (Austria)

- General exchange of views (continued)
- Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes
- Organization of work

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages, preferably in the same language as the text to which they refer. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also, if possible, incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent, within one week of the date of this document, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the records of the meetings of this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of ths session.

91-60788 5189V (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS (continued)

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT).

Mr. SCHWARZ (International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT)): On behalf of the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT), I should like to express our sincere appreciation for this opportunity to participate in the Committee's deliberations. In addition, Mr. Chairman, we would like to thank you for your excellent leadership of this session of the Committee; I know your guidance will enhance its discussions.

Today I should like to review the activities and work of INTELSAT since the last meeting of the full Committee, in June 1990.

INTELSAT serves the world. Its primary goal is to provide satellite capacity to meet the growing service demands of its users around the world. Over the past year, INTELSAT took several steps to increase capacity. INTELSAT successfully launched and deployed the INTELSAT VI (F-4) satellite. As a result INTELSAT expanded its global system to 15 satellites and reconfigured its satellite fleet to provide capacity at two additional orbital locations, one each in the Pacific and the Indian Ocean regions.

As previously related to the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in February this year, INTELSAT awarded a contract to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration of the United States (NASA) for a shared space shuttle mission in 1992 for the reboost of the INTELSAT VI (F-3) spacecraft. It is anticipated that INTELSAT VI (F-3) will be in service by the end of 1992.

(Mr. Schwarz, INTELSAT)

INTELSAT also awarded a contract for the procurement of two enhanced versions of the INTELSAT VII spacecraft, termed INTELSAT VII-A. That contract award brings to a total of seven the number of INTELSAT VII series satellites that are being constructed for deployment in the 1992-1995 timeframe.

INTELSAT is committed to providing whatever services its users want and need. For example, the organization undertook extraordinary efforts to meet the record demand for broadcasting services during the past year. Recently, the attention of all the world was riveted on the Persian Gulf region. Hundreds of news broacasters arrived on site, resulting in thousands of requests for satellite time. INTELSAT quickly responded to meet their requirements by repositioning the Ku-band spot beam on the INTELSAT V (F-2) satellite to provide the special Ku-band coverage necessary for transportable Earth stations operating in the Gulf region.

In January of this year, during the height of the Gulf crisis, occasional-use television transmissions set a record of 435 transmissions in one day. No one welcomes a crisis, but many welcome the availability of communications resources to meet special requirements for the duration.

From World Cup football to the events in the Persian Gulf region, the resources of the INTELSAT global system were available to serve the world's demand for television coverage. INTELSAT set new records in all broadcast areas as the organization's expertise and resources met the unprecedented demand.

Responding to member requirements for cable restoration services is another area where INTELSAT's resources were mobilized to meet unprecedented challenges posed by interruptions in service to the trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific fibre optic cables. During 1990 INTELSAT restored TAT-8 four times, PTAT twice and the Pacific HAW4/TPC3 cable once for a six-week period.

(Mr. Schwarz, INTELSAT)

Those fibre optic cable failures accounted for more than 985,000 digital bearer channel-days of restoration. In addition, during 1990 INTELSAT restored 19,387 analogue cable channels for 346,458 channel-days.

The INTELSAT system links virtually every place on Earth. The number of Earth stations continues to grow, and the traffic carried on the system continues to expand. INTELSAT's goal is to preserve and enhance global and regional connectivity, making it easier to communicate from virtually any place on Earth.

In May 1990 INTELSAT achieved a milestone in global connectivity with the implementation of the world's first commercial application of satellite switched time division multiple access (SS/TDMA) in the Atlantic Ocean region. This new technology allows any Earth station in one satellite beam coverage area to communicate with Earth stations in up to six beam coverage areas without any addition of Earth station equipment. SS/TDMA will be implemented in the Indian Ocean region in 1992.

Another key INTELSAT goal is to enhance its competitiveness and retain the commitment of its users to the INTELSAT global system. INTELSAT has taken many initiatives to remain competitive: new services, additional tariff reductions and enhancements to system reliability, connectivity and technology. Our approach is to do whatever is necessary to provide an effective and timely response to meet the service requirements of our users.

One key structural change within INTELSAT has been the establishment of the Regional Marketing Department with the objective of strengthening links with the users of the INTELSAT system and becoming more responsive to signatories' wants and needs.

(Mr. Schwarz, INTELSAT)

Regional marketing, under the direction of Mr. John Tierney, includes six regional directors serving the following regions: South America and the Caribbean; Europe; Africa; the Middle East; North Asia; and South Asia. The mission of the regional directors is to assist the signatories and INTELSAT system users within their regions by designing marketing plans for the use of the INTELSAT system as a whole as well as developing marketing plans for individual customers or products. Moreover, the regional directors ensure prompt response to signatory requests and facilitate exchange of information between INTELSAT and system users. At a time when INTELSAT has defined its primary goals of enhanced customer service and responsiveness to the users of the INTELSAT global system, the Regional Marketing Department fills a significant and vital role.

Responding to the global communications demands of tomorrow requires a unique blend of vision, pragmatism and expertise today. INTELSAT is focusing its resources on the future now so that it can meet its users' communications requirements for the twenty-first century. INTELSAT is exploring all technology options to meet that objective, both evolutionary and revolutionary, from ion propulsion to satellites in low orbit connected via inter-satellite links to the INTELSAT geostationary satellite network.

INTELSAT's initiatives in service, technology and international cooperation reached new milestones in 1990-1991. We shall continue our strong commitment to providing telecommunications services to all nations of the world in the years to come.

Mr. KOZYREV (Council on International Cooperation in the Study and Utilization of Outer Space (INTERCOSMOS)) (interpretation from Russian): I join all previous speakers in congratulating you, Sir, on your election to the important post of Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I wish you every success in carrying out your responsibilities.

It is well known that the Council on International Cooperation in the Study and Utilization of Outer Space (INTERCOSMOS) was established in 1967; next year will mark our twenty-fifth anniversary. Three years ago, INTERCOSMOS was accorded observer status in this Committee.

At the 1988 meeting of heads of national coordinating bodies of INTERCOSMOS member States, held in Hungary, the Soviet body - the INTERCOSMOS Council of the USSR Academy of Sciences - was appointed to serve as the international secretariat of the INTERCOSMOS programme, which is why I appear here today to report on the results of the meeting of heads of national coordinating bodies held in Moscow in April 1991.

In the light of the new developments all our member States are experiencing, that meeting was a most important one. Delegations from all 10 States participated: Bulgaria, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Germany as an observer, Hungary, Mongolia, Poland, Romania, the Soviet Union and Viet Nam. The principal result of the meeting was that participants reaffirmed the importance of the programme's work and stated their determination to increase their participation in the programme. The meeting heard reports of the chairmen of five working groups, on space physics, space biology and medicine, meteorology, space communications, and remote sensing of the Earth using airborne and satellite-borne equipment.

(Mr. Kozyrev, INTERCOSMOS)

For the sake of brevity, I have submitted a written report on the 1989-1990 activities of INTERCOSMOS to the Committee secretariat. I should, however, like to say that we are planning in November 1991 to launch our jubilee satellite INTERCOSMOS-25 in the context of the APEX project. It will simulate geophysical phenomena in the near-terrestrial plasma by injecting charged-particle beams. The satellite will carry equipment developed in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Germany, Poland, Romania and the Soviet Union. In addition, Czechoslovakia has developed a smaller MAGION-type satellite; it will conduct manoeuvres around the main satellite.

In 1992-1993 we plan to launch two satellites as part of the INTERBALL programme to study the physical mechanisms of solar-wind energy transfer to the magnetosphere of Earth. Also in 1992-1993 we plan to launch two satellites in the CORONAS project to study the solar atmosphere over the wide range of electromagnetic radiation.

After 1993, we shall conduct three SPECTR projects: SPECTR-ROENTGEN-GAMMA, which will plot the images of astrophysical objects and conduct deep coverage of the sky with a mirror telescope with an eight-metre focal distance; SPECTR-UFT, to investigate the ultraviolet emission spectra of point and extended sources; and SPECTR-RADIOASTRON, using a radio interferometer with ground-based and spaceborne segments for astrophysical investigations.

At the Moscow meeting, we also discussed the INTERCOSMOS contribution to International Space Year. This could include the 1992 launch of a special PRIRODA module for the MIR orbital station, equipped with radiometers, side-vision radars, a television system and other equipment now under development in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Poland, Romania and the Soviet Union. The data collected by this module will help us develop

(Mr. Kozyrev, INTERCOSMOS)

methods for the optimal use of Earth's natural resources in such spheres as geology, geography, oceanography, hydrology and meteorology. I shall be submitting a detailed description of the PRIRODA project to the Committee secretariat.

Another INTERCOSMOS contribution to International Space Year will be the convening in November 1991 at Zvenigorod near Moscow of an international symposium on "Remote sensing of the Earth: Achievements and possibilities". Another symposium will be held in March 1992 in Cuba on the results of study of the Earth from airborne and satellite-borne equipment. I shall be submitting an information sheet on the Zvenigorod meeting to the Committee secretariat.

I wish in conclusion to highlight once more the determination of all the participants in April's Moscow meeting to continue and broaden their participation in the INTERCOSMOS programme, and their desire to continue to invite scientists and experts from interested countries and organizations to participate in joint programmes.

The CHAIRMAN: That concludes our consideration of agenda item 5.

WAYS AND MEANS OF MAINTAINING OUTER SPACE FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES

Mr. ABDEL MONEIM (Egypt) (interpretation from Arabic): My delegation attaches particular importance to this agenda item, first of all because maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes naturally means preventing its use for other purposes and, secondly, because it has special priority among the items before the Committee at this session.

(Mr. Abdel Moneim, Egypt)

Our position on this item is based on two elements. The first is the firm commitment of our foreign policy to seek general and complete disarmament, which is a fundamental goal to which all States Members of the United Nations are committed. The second element is the relationship of this item to our national security in a region that is among the world's most volatile owing to its position at the crossroads of neighbouring regions which have their own problems and conflicts.

(Mr. Abdel Moneim, Egypt)

Our position can be summarized in the following points. First, there should be concerted international efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space before it is too late to block its potential harm to the stability of international relations as we want them to be.

Second, outer space must not be used to deploy weapons of mass destruction or systems by which they could be launched to Earth. That would undermine international disarmament efforts in the nuclear and conventional fields.

Third, the resources devoted to the non-peaceful uses of outer space must be reallocated to peaceful uses only. That would ensure that outer space will genuinely be used for peaceful purposes in the interest of all countries, not solely in the interest of the developed countries with advanced space technology.

Fourth, we must agree quickly on coherent and practical confidence-building measures in outer space pursuant to General Assembly resolution 45/55 B. We welcome the Secretary-General's invitation to our Government with respect to the group charged with preparing a study on confidence-building measures in outer space under that resolution. We shall do our utmost to ensure that the study represents significant progress towards identifying ways and means to maintain outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes.

Fifth, it is useful to benefit from the work of the outer space committee of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament. Some may feel that the present item involves elements that are intrinsically extraneous to the mandate of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space; others may consider that these

(Mr. Abdel Moneim, Egypt)

elements differ substantially from those dealt with by the Conference on Disarmament's outer space committee. But the fact is that progress in either committee will stimulate progress in the other. This Committee's consideration of the item - as demonstrated by the work of delegations at the last session - has yielded important and specific ideas that deserve consideration and reflection. We should consider applying them, if not now, then in the foreseeable future.

Sixth, whether or not they are members of this Committee, countries must display the political will to implement the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and to help the Legal Subcommittee to adopt solid, well-defined formulas governing the exploration and use of outer space. This would guarantee that the international community will tirelessly pursue the goal of using outer space for exclusively peaceful purposes.

Seventh, regional disarmament and arms control efforts should not ignore international efforts to prevent an arms race in outer space and to limit the use of outer space to peaceful purposes. The initiative of President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak to establish a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East should be viewed from that perspective in the context of the present item. Some countries in the region conduct advanced space programmes and have special access to space technology. It is therefore necessary right now to ensure that space programmes are directed to peaceful purposes only; that would satisfy a regional requirement to which we attach great importance and would reflect a commitment to a necessary international goal.

That summarizes our position on the item before the Committee; as I have said, we attach special importance to it. It is therefore important to us

(Mr. Abdel Moneim, Egypt)

that the points I have stated are reflected in the Committee's report to the General Assembly on the work of its current session. It is also important that the Committee's consideration of the item result in integrated concepts and practical formulas to ensure that outer space is used for peaceful purposes only. We hope those concepts and formulas will influence the resolution to be adopted by the General Assembly on this question at its forty-sixth session.

Mr. GALAZKA (Poland): Let me say at the outset, Sir, that we join in the congratulations and best wishes conveyed to you by previous speakers, and wish you many successful years as Chairman - perhaps also 20, or even more. We are convinced that your experience and knowledge will be of great help in the work of the Committee.

Your predecessor, Mr. Jankowitsch, remains an important part of the history of outer space and of United Nations activities in that area. We are very grateful for the enormous effort and hard work he gave the Committee during his 20 years as Chairman.

(Mr. Galazka, Poland)

I would also like to say that, like other representatives, we admire the city of Graz and the already very well-known Austrian hospitality and organizing ability. It is my personal feeling that it has something to do with the charm and atmosphere of the "good old days" of the country's history.

We decided to present a working paper to the Committee under agenda item 6, in the belief that it will make a contribution to maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes; it was distributed yesterday in document A/AC.105/L.190. One way to do so is to maintain outer space in good condition. Poland would like to propose the elaboration of a report on the protection and preservation of the outer space environment, especially activities potentially affecting the Earth environment.

The continuous and rapid increase in many nations' activities in outer space is causing phenomena hazardous to the space environment and jeopardizing further exploration of outer space. The main goal of the proposed report is to identify these dangerous phenomena and to point out the consequences for the further development of space activities. I would like to add that this report, if elaborated, will not be directed against any nation, body, or space activity. The aim of the report is to show up and highlight the unwanted and dangerous by-products of space activity.

The report should take into account matters mentioned in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, and the work on the subject during the last session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in February 1991.

In particular, the report should, in our opinion, consider the following subjects. The first is space debris, mentioned in paragraph 22 of General Assembly resolution 45/72, to which many references have been made here.

(Mr. Galazka, Poland)

Hence I shall add only one statement: according to reliable estimates, after 30 to 50 years, orbits between 800 and 1,500 kilometres will be practically closed if no action is undertaken - and 30 years is not a long time; Gagarin's flight was 30 years ago.

The second is nuclear explosions in space and their influence on space objects, the atmosphere and the Earth environment. New types of propulsion systems require nuclear power, including nuclear and thermonuclear reactions. Another such problem arises with regard to space weapons, such as X-ray lasers powered by nuclear explosions. Very little attention is paid to the consequences of such actions on the space and Earth environments.

The third is the influence of rocket propulsion systems on the atmosphere, ozone depletion and the chemical and electrical structures of the ionosphere. Over 130 rockets are launched every year. New fuels and new types of rocket engines are continuously being developed. Existing reports - and there are some - are not complete.

The fourth is the use of nuclear power sources in outer space, also mentioned in paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 45/72. Nuclear reactors of the 10-kW power class have been repeatedly flown in space. Reactors of the 100-kW class - 10 times larger - are under development, and more powerful reactors are also feasible. The subject was recently considered by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and I am sure it will be discussed later at this session.

The fifth concerns plans for solar-power plants that will transmit hundreds, even thousands, of megawatts of power to the Earth through the atmosphere. The influence of such activity must be carefully analysed from the environmental point of view.

(Mr. Galazka, Poland)

Lastly, the rapid increase of satellite communications, satellite television, navigation systems and so on leads to increased intensities of electromagnetic waves in outer space and the atmosphere. This problem mostly concerns telecommunications systems, but it can also be of interest from the environmental point of view. I would add that huge and very costly radio telescopes are being blinded by electromagnetic noise connected with space stations and satellites.

The subjects I have listed can serve as a starting-point for deeper and broader analyses of factors important to the outer space environment and connected to the Earth environment. Allow me one remark: none of the subjects listed here is new. They have been dealt with in many reports, published papers, and conference papers - including those at meetings of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF). In the scientific community involved in space research, these problems have been present for many years. In our opinion, the proposed report is of vital importance for current and future space activities and of interest to all nations. We believe that such a report must be elaborated sooner or later - and better sooner than later. As a first step, the elaboration of such a report could be the subject of a separate item on the agenda of the next meeting of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

Mr. HERNANDEZ BASAVE (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): The delegation of Mexico does not share the view that such extraneous matters as disarmament do not contribute to revitalizing the work of this Committee. This item now before us is a priority in our work programme. We find it strange that the desire should be expressed to use outer space for purely peaceful purposes while propitiating the militarization of an area that is

(Mr. Hernandez Basave, Mexico)

considered the common heritage of mankind. We do not share that view for, among other things, the following reasons.

In conformity with General Assembly resolution 45/72, adopted without a vote on 11 December 1990, this Committee is called upon once more to review, as a priority item, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. Its inclusion on the Committee's agenda in 1984 was the result of the great concern expressed by the vast majority of countries of the international community at the growing militarization of outer space.

This concern led the General Assembly in 1983 to adopt resolution 38/80, in which, in operative paragraph 14, it calls upon all States, in particular those with major space capabilities, to undertake prompt - I repeat, prompt - negotiations, under the auspices of the United Nations, with a view to reaching agreement or agreements designed to halt the militarization of outer space and to prevent an arms race in outer space. That resolution, in the following operative paragraph, requested this Committee to consider, as a matter of priority, the questions relating to the militarization of outer space, taking into account that, in General Assembly resolution 37/83 of 9 December 1982, the Committee on Disarmament - now the Conference on Disarmament - was requested to consider, also as a matter of priority, the same question.

(Mr. Hernandez Basave, Mexico)

We believe that this Committee and its subsidiary bodies were established because of the concern of the United Nations to ensure that space activities were undertaken exclusively for peaceful purposes and for the benefit and in the interests of all peoples. To that end, it is absolutely essential to prevent the unbridled arms race that was the hallmark of the so-called cold war from extending to outer space. That is the spirit of the present international legal regime governing activities in space, and that is the spirit that should guide our work on this agenda item.

That is why we are deeply concerned that during the seven years that this item has been on our programme of work no results have been produced, while the demilitarization of outer space continues apace, contrary to the desires of mankind and the purposes pursued by the Committee.

The purpose of the Strategic Defence Initiative of the United States, commonly known as "Star Wars", is to create an anti-ballistic missile system in outer space, and that in itself constitutes a potential obstacle to disarmament negotiations between the super-Powers, which the international community as a whole wishes to see succeed. It also infringes both the spirit and the letter of a number of international agreements, among them the Treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union on the Limitation of Anti-ballistic Missile (ABM) Systems, which has been in force since 3 October 1972. At present, that Treaty restricts to one the number of areas in which such defence systems may be deployed. Article V of the Treaty lays down that each party undertakes not to develop, test or deploy ABM systems or their components which are sea-based, air-based, space-based or mobile land-based. The launching of the Strategic Defence Initiative is also an infringement of the purposes of the 1967 outer space Treaty.

(Mr. Hernandez Basave, Mexico)

The proclamation in 1990 of the end of the cold war was a historic event welcomed by one and all. The process of détente which now obtains in international relations has created real hopes that we may at last begin a genuine process of disarmament on the Earth, in the seas and, most particularly, in outer space. The renewed enthusiasm for strengthening the role of the United Nations should be felt about all the areas of the Organization, not just some of its bodies.

Despite repeated urgent appeals by the international community to preserve outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes, we very much regret that neither the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva nor this Committee has been able to tackle that delicate matter with determination. It has not been possible to reach an agreement in the Conference on Disarmament on the negotiating mandate for the ad hoc committee entrusted with this matter, and in this Committee we have not been able to reach an agreement on how to tackle it.

My delegation finds it contradictory that, on the one hand, there is an improvement in the world political situation - an atmosphere of cooperation and understanding between the former protagonists of the so-called cold war - and, on the other, the new situation is not accompanied by the political will to progress towards general and complete disarmament and, in particular, the demilitarization of outer space which, I repeat, is essential if we wish to ensure that it is exploited exclusively for peaceful purposes and for the benefit of all mankind.

Mexico believes we would be making a serious mistake if we did not take this opportunity provided by the present international climate to tackle this problem constructively, coordinating our efforts with those of the Conference

(Mr. Hernandez Basave, Mexico)

on Disarmament, the sole multilateral negotiating body in the field of disarmament. To achieve that objective, we do not have to go into specific disarmament negotiations in this forum. That is the task of the Conference on Disarmament. But what we can do in this Committee is contribute to the success of the negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament by making legal, technical and scientific recommendations. The participation of the distinguished scientists and experts who every year attend the meetings of the two Subcommittees of this Committee could provide useful input for the consideration of this item. We could, for example, begin now an exchange of information between this Committee and the Conference on Disarmament in order to identify common fields of endeavour, such as those mentioned this morning in the general exchange of views. We would thus be contributing to a revitalization of the role of the United Nations in a sphere of capital importance for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. MAIORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It is possible that my statement will overlap somewhat with what has just been said by the representative of Mexico. I apologize for this, but, unfortunately, I do not have time to change the speech I have already prepared.

The issue of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes is rightfully a priority item on the Committee's agenda. This issue contains inexhaustible potential, and if we creatively realize this potential this could give an impetus to the promotion of international interaction by countries in many areas of space exploration. It could also improve the work of our Committee and its subsidiary bodies. By that I mean improving the work itself, not the methods for conducting it. We have to keep in mind that even

(Mr. Maiorski, USSR)

when applying the old methods our Committee was quite capable of formulating and adopting five major international agreements and three complex principles, and many of those agreements and principles contain provisions directly related to the ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

At this point, unfortunately, we have to acknowledge that the potential inherent in this priority item has not been realized. It would seem that the time is ripe for a very bold and, if you will, inspired search for ways of using this potential. The international situation has changed dramatically. These changes, which are all for the better, were triggered by the new political thinking. Many previous speakers at this session of the Committee have emphasized that the cold war is now behind us, and the world now perceives things in a new light. What are the members of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space doing in connection with these developments? The primary goal of the Committee - provided of course that we carry out our work with all due responsibility - is to cover as fully as possible the priority item on our agenda and to determine with which aspects, under that full, extended coverage, we should begin the development and implementation of practical measures.

(Mr. Majorski, USSR)

With that aim in mind, there are three conditions on which the maintenance of outer space for peaceful purposes depends. First, we must exclude the possibility of the use of force in outer space. Here, we must deal with such matters as the banning of weapons aimed at targets in outer space or deployed in space, as well as other non-weapons-related methods of using force. In this connection we must also discuss the prevention of an arms race in outer space. Secondly, we must exclude the possibility of a conflict situation arising that could lead to the use of force in outer space. Under this heading we must discuss confidence-building measures, transparency and openness in space activities, the accessibility of outer space and the environmental safety of outer space. Related to this question is the issue of military activities in outer space that do not involve the use of weapons. Thirdly, we must create the most favourable conditions for broad international cooperation in the peaceful exploration of outer space. Here, we must deal with such issues as the level of participation of States and methods of organizing such cooperation, as well as consider the role the United Nations should play in such activities. To be perfectly honest, the more I am involved with issues related to outer space, the more convinced I become that rational exploration of outer space is possible only if it is based on well-organized international cooperation and not undertaken within the framework of the efforts made by individual countries.

The Soviet delegation is firmly convinced that, within the framework of the somewhat simplistic conditions I have just mentioned, the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space can deal with any element and aspect of the issue. Why is it, then, that we are not doing so? First of all, I think it is because we lack the necessary political will and we allow

(Mr. Maiorski, USSR)

formal issues to take precedence over important matters. As for my country, our attitude to maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes has been reflected in a series of initiatives we addressed to the international community. I would recall some of them. For example, we suggested a ban on the use of force in outer space, a ban on the deployment of any kinds of weapons in outer space. We suggested the establishment of a world space organization and the creation of an international space inspectorate and an international system of controls to ensure that outer space is explored exclusively for peaceful purposes. We suggested the development of a comprehensive system for conducting peaceful activities in outer space and called for confidence-building measures and for ensuring the predictability of the space activities of States.

I know that some would argue that most of those suggestions have already been made in, and are under review by, the Conference on Disarmament. That is quite true, but we are all well aware of what has happened to them, just as we are well aware of the achievements by the Conference on Disarmament in its consideration of the issue of preventing an arms race in outer space. We are repeatedly told that on this issue the General Assembly has given priority to the Conference on Disarmament and has vested it with unique, although not exclusive, competence. As a result, most of the items covered by my first condition fall within its purview, and I do not intend to argue that point. However, the second and third conditions I mentioned do fall within our Committee's area of competence, and we must face that fact.

What I have just said should not be viewed as a request that the Committee immediately discuss the Soviet proposals. We would, of course, be

(Mr. Maiorski, USSR)

happy should that occur, but we do not maintain that we enjoy any exclusivity in this connection. We would also be very happy to discuss any constructive proposals made by any other delegation that would lead to constructive dialogue and avoid further confrontation and futile political rhetoric.

My statement is but a further request that we strive to improve the work of the Committee on the priority item on its agenda. We cannot really be proud that the result of all our activity is the few lines of consensus text that are repeated year after year in the Committee's report on its work. I should like to draw attention to the statement made by the representative of Egypt at the Committee's last session that we must improve our cooperation with other international organizations dealing with space activity. We fully share that position. We should like to repeat the idea we expressed some time ago that the Committee should endeavour to establish closer cooperation with the Conference on Disarmament.

In support of that, we would note that the confidence-building measures discussed in the Conference on Disarmament cover both the military and the civil actions of States - and this is a subject that also falls within the Committee's competence. What is involved in the first place is the discussion of such issues as the review, revision or reinterpretation of international agreements with regard to space activities that were originally worked out within the framework of the Committee. As a specific example, I would mention an analysis of the acceptable minimum distance between spacecraft. We could also provide expert information on the legal aspects of space activities and outline our thinking on the principles of ensuring the safety of space activities and on confidence-building measures in space.

(Mr. Maiorski, USSR)

As a first practical step in that direction I would ask the newly elected Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to suggest to the Chairman of the Conference on Disarmament that our two bodies enter into closer cooperation and that there be more contacts between us on the issues that have to do with preserving outer space for peaceful purposes. We could work out a relevant recommendation here and now.

At its twenty-eighth session the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee managed to work out an agreement on closer cooperation between the Committee and the United Nations Environment Programme. That should stand as an example to us.

In conclusion, I should like to assure the Committee that the Soviet delegation is prepared to participate in the Committee's discussions on all aspects of this extremely important issue of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

Mr. MURTHI (India): Our delegation considers that the agenda item "Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes" is very important from the point of view of the Committee's mandate. We have been considering that agenda item for quite some time, but we have been unable to make rapid progress with a common approach. The Committee laid a solid foundation for the pursuit of activities by States for the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space through the adoption of the outer space Treaty and subsequent international treaties and conventions. Those legal instruments recognize outer space as the common heritage of mankind. Not only that, they aim to regulate its use for peaceful purposes and also serve to promote international cooperation in its exploration and in ensuring that its benefits reach all mankind.

Technological developments in the field of outer space have been progressing very rapidly. Over the years we have been faced with the prospect of outer space becoming an arena for the arms race, with the development of various kinds of weapons under way for testing and use in outer space. In the view of our delegation, those developments can threaten the very basis and foundation of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes unless further appropriate international understanding is reached on the issues arising from them.

In our view, further developments in this regard could cause serious impediments to the promotion of healthy international cooperation for many peaceful and beneficial applications of outer space and for preserving the outer space environment for use by future generations without serious limitations or interference.

As a Committee we have expressed our firm belief that developments that would strengthen the political role of the Committee in maintaining outer

(Mr. Murthi, India)

space for peaceful purposes should continue. The Committee has also reiterated its responsibilities in connection with strengthening the international basis for the peaceful exploration and use of outer space. All this points to the need for the Committee to work actively to ensure that outer space is maintained for peaceful purposes and to work to promote efforts in other relevant forums so that the goal of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes is effectively reached.

We have been debating the role of this Committee in relation to this agenda item. There have also been deliberations regarding some specific ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes, particularly the broadening of international cooperation.

With regard to the role of the Committee, there have been differences regarding the scope of the discussion under this item, particularly in view of the Conference on Disarmament's consideration of the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space. Many delegations, including our own, see interdependencies between, on the one hand, the ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and, on the other, the question of the prevention of an arms race in outer space. Hence, we have been stressing that the work in our Committee and the work in the Conference on Disarmament should proceed in a complementary way, so that the two bodies may assist each other in achieving the goal of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. An obvious minimum requirement for this is the establishment between the two bodies of appropriate information exchange and a cohesive approach.

Turning now to the other aspect - strengthening the basis of international cooperation - we know there have been a number of suggestions and proposals in the past from various delegations. We consider that the

(Mr. Murthi, India)

Committee should explore actively the possibility of establishing common ground between them so we can make further progress on that front.

We reiterate our keen interest in working with other delegations to explore the ways in which we could make further, and rapid, progress on this agenda item.

Mr. LOWELL (United States of America): It was not our intention to speak this afternoon under this item, but I want to make some comments because of my concern over the direction in which this discussion is headed.

I had hoped, and I know that other delegations had also hoped, that following our discussions over the past two years under agenda item 6, where we were able to achieve some modest consensus language in moving the discussion forward, we would be able to build on the results achieved in the past two years. But what I hear this afternoon leads me to believe that there will be very little opportunity at this session for making progress under the item on ways and means. I think that is very disappointing.

We are very surprised to hear such great emphasis under this item on the military aspects of outer space. Consequently, I want to reiterate very briefly the well-known views of the United States Government as to the appropriateness of discussing disarmament issues in this body.

As I mentioned this morning very briefly, there is no scarcity of multilateral forums where disarmament matters can be and are being discussed. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is not one of them. When the Committee was first established by the General Assembly, in 1958, it was established with the clear understanding that it would not have a role to play in disarmament.

(Mr. Lowell, United States)

In a 2 September 1958 proposal to the Secretary-General, the United States requested the inclusion in the agenda of the thirteenth session of an item entitled "Programme for international cooperation in the field of outer space". We also forwarded an explanatory memorandum. In that explanatory memorandum accompanying the proposal, the Permanent Representative of the United States at that time, Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, described the United States position, a position to which we continue to adhere.

Ambassador Lodge noted, in part, that the potential uses of outer space for destructive part were only too apparent; on the other hand, the potential uses of outer space for peaceful purposes could enrich the lives of all men; urgent steps were needed to lay a solid basis for international cooperation in the development of the peaceful uses of outer space; such steps could be taken while parallel efforts were made on the disarmament aspects of outer space. It is clear that these parallel efforts on disarmament were not to be undertaken in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

(Mr. Lowell, United States)

Ambassador Lodge went on to explain in that memorandum precisely what was envisaged with respect to the mandate of this Committee. He said,

"The General Assembly, as the body most representative of the interests of mankind, should begin to take the necessary steps to further those interests by declaring itself on the separability of the question of the peaceful uses of outer space from that of disarmament."

The General Assembly did indeed declare itself on that question when on 13 December 1958 it adopted resolution 1348 (XIII), the so-called 20-Power resolution submitted by 20 States, including the United States. That resolution established the ad hoc Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, eventually made permanent in 1959, as we all know.

To summarize the point, it is the view of the United States that the appropriate bodies within the United Nations for dealing with the disarmament aspects of outer space are the United States-Soviet negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament, as well as the First Committee of the General Assembly. Continued attempts to interject security issues into this Committee's business will do nothing to contribute to the solution of disarmament problems. What they will do is undermine this Committee's role as a focal point within the United Nations for international cooperation.

Finally, I want to address very briefly the unfortunate remarks made in this afternoon's meeting by the representative of Mexico. Those remarks contained a mendacious allegation that the policies and programmes of the United States Government are somehow contributing to the militarization of outer space and, according to that allegation, are inconsistent with established international law.

(Mr. Lowell, United States)

I have no intention of being drawn into an extraneous discussion on such issues, but let me say categorically that we reject these mendacious allegations. All United States Government programmes and policies are conducted in strict accordance with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations. I think the kind of approach made by the representative of Mexico, and its tenor, are certainly an effrontery from the point of view of my delegation, and we hope they will not be perpetuated during this session of the Committee.

Mr. BOYER (France) (interpretation from French): My delegation intended to speak on this item at tomorrow morning's meeting, but since the list of speakers has been exhausted, and in view of the statements that have been made this afternoon, my delegation feels that it is perhaps more useful for the Committee as a whole if we make our statement now. I should like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for having afforded me the opportunity to alter the work programme.

The French delegation remains firmly committed to the principle that the question of preventing an arms race in outer space is the exclusive competence of the Geneva Conference. We believe that paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 44/112 - in which the General Assembly reiterates that the Conference on Disarmament, as the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum, has the primary role in the negotiation of a multilateral agreement or agreements, as appropriate, on the prevention of an arms race in outer space in all its aspects - provides an exclusive mandate to the Conference on Disarmament and its Ad Hoc Committee on the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space.

Moreover, we interpret paragraph 26 of General Assembly resolution

(Mr. Boyer, France)

45/72 - in which the Assembly requests the outer space Committee to consider, as a matter of priority, ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes - to be a request for it to discuss solely the peaceful aspects of the use of outer space without infringing on the mandate of the Conference on Disarmament. Similarly, we believe that paragraph 24 of the same resolution - in which the General Assembly urges all States to contribute actively to the goal of preventing an arms race in outer space - does not give this Committee a negotiating mandate.

On a more practical level, let me add that this Committee has enough to do on other serious subjects without involving itself in matters in which it has no competence. That could open it to criticism to the effect, for instance, that it has too much time allocated to it for its work. We do not in fact have too much time. Indeed, we have so little time that we cannot deal with other matters.

Mr. GONZALEZ (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): We had not intended to speak today on this item, as our position is well known, but we should like to make a brief and, we feel, pertinent statement in connection with the important remarks of the representative of France. He rightly stated that this Committee is very busy dealing with serious matters. We fully agree with that and we consider, therefore, that we should not be considering a formula for restructuring the Committee that would involve abbreviating our working sessions or that would undermine the possibility of achieving substantive results. In that, we fully agree with the representative of France, and we believe the majority of other delegations would agree as well.

I shall not comment on the mandate of the Committee, because our position on that question is well known. But I want to make it very clear that at no

(Mr. Gonzalez, Chile)

time now or in the future should we consider the possibility of shortening our sessions, as the subjects with which we are dealing are serious and require much time for thought. We believe such thought is enhanced by the new developments on the international stage, where there is movement towards a greater degree of consensus.

That is why my delegation said in the general exchange of views that perhaps international cooperation is no longer the byword of a single group of countries, but is gradually beginning to give form to other elements of international relations and to colour the thinking of all States. If we are to be consistent with that new situation, we should then give the Committee its due importance. In that connection we reiterate that the example set by Austria in its decision to allow its Permanent Representative to the United Nations to act as our Chairman and in its having appointed other individuals of political note as prior Chairmen should signal the importance and relevance of this Committee.

(Mr. Gonzalez, Chile)

Developed and developing countries alike, we are all in this together working towards solutions within an ever-more-global agenda. Matters such as the environment and drug trafficking are all involved in some way in the subjects we deal with.

It is clear that this Committee is dealing with an important and serious agenda, which requires of us all an effort at understanding and flexibility. We cannot hold to inflexible positions and at the same time maintain that the question of international cooperation demands increasingly active and productive work in this Committee.

That is why we agree with the representative of France. At the same time, I must make it very clear that this in no way compromises Chile's traditional position on the specific agenda item under discussion.

Mr. HERNANDEZ BASAVE (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation has always participated constructively in all United Nations forums. We participate actively in the First Committee and the Conference on Disarmament, of which we have been fortunate enough to be members since its inception. I do not wish to engage in polemics with any delegation, but I was somewhat surprised by the adjectives used by the representative of the United States. The word "mendacity" -

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of the United States on a point of order.

Mr. LOWELL (United States of America): Is the representative of Mexico speaking in exercise of the right of reply, in accordance with a speakers' list on which his name is inscribed, or is he speaking in accordance with some other procedure?

The CHAIRMAN: The representative of Mexico is speaking in exercise of the right of reply.

Mr. HERNANDEZ BASAVE (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): As I was saying, my delegation has no intention of engaging in polemics with any delegation. We wish to adopt a very constructive and friendly attitude towards all States Members of the United Nations and all members of this Committee. But it is our duty to state our views on matters of international security of common interest to all mankind.

I was surprised by some of what the representative of the United States said. He described some of my delegation's statements on agenda item 6 as unfortunate and mendacious, and suggested that they undermined the work of the Committee with respect to international cooperation.

As I said earlier, I do not want to engage in polemics on this. But I would ask the United States delegation how the Strategic Defence Initiative contributes to attaining the objective of ensuring that outer space is used exclusively for peaceful purposes and to the benefit and in the interest of all Member States, in accordance with article I of the 1967 outer space Treaty. We know that when General Assembly resolution 38/80 on international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space was adopted, there was a negative vote and some abstentions by States in the Western Group, but we believe that once General Assembly resolutions have been adopted - with our votes in favour or our abstentions - it is the duty of all of us, as Members of the United Nations, to be guided by the spirit of those resolutions, which always express the wishes of mankind.

Mr. MAIORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Like some other delegations, the Soviet delegation is alarmed by the turn the discussion has taken over the past half hour. I agree with the representative of France that the Committee is engaged in very serious

(Mr. Majorski, USSR)

work. But I never thought - and I hope my colleagues will join me in this - that we would gauge the seriousness of our work by the rigidity or the categorical nature of the statements made by representatives. I think we have gone beyond that stage. We should have learned to listen calmly and with dignity to one another, even to statements with which we do not agree.

I stress that I do not want to accuse anyone of undignified behaviour or to provoke another point or order or exercise of the right of reply. I am speaking purely theoretically.

I do not think anyone here has tried to cast doubt on the well-known General Assembly resolution designating the Conference on Disarmament as the competent body with respect to the prevention of an arms race in outer space; indeed, it was adopted with but one negative vote, so the majority of those here voted in favour of that resolution. But even using the resolution as the point of reference, it would be impossible to claim that its wording excludes the possibility of interaction and cooperation between the Conference on Disarmament and this Committee. Such interaction and cooperation would not mean the Committee was interfering in the field of disarmament.

The statements of some delegations shifted from disarmament to defence and security issues. There is a big difference between disarmament and security; I feel the Committee certainly enjoys competence in the field of security.

(Mr. Maiorski, USSR)

While we are on the subject of the Committee's area of competence, and while reference is made to historic events, I would like to recall - and I thank the representative of the United States for reminding us - that, exactly seven years after Ambassador Lodge explained to all of us and to generations to come the duties of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, on its own initiative the Committee drafted the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. Preambular paragraph 4 of that agreement is of a specifically disarmament character.

At that time, the Committee's mandate was not in dispute, even though the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee was already in session. The language of that preambular paragraph 4 was reiterated five or six years later when another agreement was being developed. Once again, we did not contest at that time the right and mandate of the Committee to formulate such a clause. No one doubted that the Committee had a negotiating mandate.

We believe that, if we wish to continue this tradition, we must ensure that the Committee's mandate does not change and that we do not negate what we ourselves have done in the past. I personally participated in the development of the Agreement on the Moon, and I know that this question was never raised at the time. Thus, we appeal to all members to believe that we are not attempting to fool or to accuse anyone. Let us all calmly, together, and in a constructive manner try to look at the essence of the issue. Let us stop trying to use the rhetoric in the few lines of instructions we all have; let us try to initiate a dialogue that would enable us to give substance to the item on ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. Out of self-respect to ourselves, we cannot possibly say that the results of seven years' work on the issue are the 15 or 17 lines in the consensus text that has for years has been repeated in the Committee's report.

(Mr. Maiorski, USSR)

As is said in a well-known musical, "Fiddler on the Roof", let us sit down, calm down, and talk to one another as human beings.

The CHAIRMAN: The Chairman, who has only had two and a half days in the Chair - he is quite young in his experience of the chairmanship - is learning a lot this afternoon on the history of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

In this context, I am of course very inspired by this debate, as, I am sure, we all are, including the host country and the city of Graz. However, I believe that the common spirit of cooperation that has always characterized this Committee is something we should always keep in mind. I am saying this absolutely aside from any written rule of procedure, because we know that it has been a good tradition and unwritten rule in this Committee that we always respect the positions of other countries and that we all try to have a very authentic spirit of cooperation, even on difficult questions.

Having said that, I now call on the representative of the United States of America, who wishes to speak in exercise of the right of reply.

Mr. LOWELL (United States of America): I really apologize for prolonging this, but I would like to exercise one right of reply in response to the statement in exercise of the right of reply of the representative of Mexico, who explained his interest in and desire for friendly relations with all States in his assumption that his earlier remarks were proceeding in a constructive spirit. At least as far as I am concerned, I would like simply to clarify for the benefit of the representative of Mexico that we do not consider charges that our Government is in violation of international law, even though such charges are obviously mendacious, to be the proper way to approach a desire for friendly relations with other Governments.

(Mr. Lowell, United States)

Secondly, it is apparent from what the representative of Mexico has said and what he has not said that he has little to say at this point - and I hope this changes - in our discussion on the real business of this Committee which is international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Lastly, I would come back to a brief comment of the representative of the Soviet Union, who reiterated in his last statement his intention not to try to fool anyone. I would like to confirm for him that he is indeed not fooling anyone.

Mr. BOYER (France) (interpretation from French): I should briefly like to recall the main reason why France opposes this Committee's dealing with disarmament matters. It is quite simply because there is a competent Conference within the framework of the United Nations and because the basic principles of streamlining work make it desirable that the Conference, a United Nations body like our Committee, should deal with those matters.

I should now, paradoxically, also like to reply to the representative of Chile, who fully endorsed my views, for which I thank him, all the more since the endorsement comes from a person with whom I have the best friendly relations. But I know that he is a consummate diplomat, because he hears what he wants to hear and ignores the rest. All the same, I should like to make one small clarification: anything that works well can always be improved. In other words, it is impossible for us not to be concerned with improving the working methods of this Committee.

Now, what I said - and I shall return to this later on as well - referred exclusively to this Committee. The representative of Chile stressed what I said, and I would like to stress that my comments referred exclusively to the plenary Committee. I do not wish to prejudge any comments on the work of the Subcommittees, but I also do not wish to have words put in my mouth.

(Mr. Boyer, France)

Thus, I reserve the right to return to these problems and I would stress now as I did two years ago that the French delegation believes that it is always possible to improve, but that it rather prefers gentle medicine. It is perhaps some of that gentle medicine that I shall include in my proposals at future discussions.

Mr. GONZALEZ (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): Fortunately, we have a time limit. We could work through until 6 p.m. and carry on with our discussions on this matter and others for approximately another hour, even though Graz is a marvellous and beautiful city and we are all happy with it.

(Mr. Gonzalez, Chile)

Of course, we are all responsible representatives and we want to make the best possible use of our time in this meeting. These statements can obviously be made in exercise of the right of reply, but I think that this is a procedural problem and that it is not really worth doing so. We are meeting here as a group of friends trying to stress the importance of international cooperation. It therefore does not matter to me whether my statement is called the exercise of the right of reply or not.

The representative of France said that I heard what I wanted to hear and did not hear what I did not want to hear. I can only say that I am obviously defending my country's interests - and in this case the interests of the developing countries - on specific matters. I was referring to a part of his statement, and I added some comments that I believed to be compatible with it. I am certainly not trying to fool someone who is much more of a consummate diplomat than I am. His training and his long and important career in his Ministry prove this.

Clearly I was a bit naive and did not make my case adequately. What I was trying to stress was that we believe the work of this Committee is very serious. As far as I know, I did not say anything about the Subcommittees. Of course, people of my age tend to forget things, but I was speaking of this Committee and in the context of this Committee. We are very glad of France's company here in saying that this Committee's work is very serious. And because of that we believe we should not try to undermine this work by proposing, for instance, to shorten its sessions. Those are my words, and I use them because they are in my interest and in the interest of a sovereign State, Chile. I should like that to be quite clear.

(Mr. Gonzalez, Chile)

At the same time, to illustrate the spirit of my statement, I stated clearly that we did not wish to set forth our position on the substance of the matter under discussion because we believed that the matter had been quite clearly defined and the parameters were evident. Our position is perfectly clear, and we did not think it would be useful to go into it again.

That having been said, we should like to stress again that in our view, as a developing country, it is important to deal with all aspects that have a positive effect on international cooperation and that, conversely, have a negative effect by preventing international cooperation from serving the interests of all concerned. That is what we said in our statement.

In any event, if there are problems of interpretation or of perception, I assure the representative of France that I would certainly never dream of putting words into his mouth or of attributing to him ideas with which he might not agree.

The CHAIRMAN: As I see that there are further speakers, I must remind the Committee that, in accordance with paragraphs 9 and 10 of the decision on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the General Assembly,

"The number of interventions in the exercise of the right of reply for any delegation at a given meeting should be limited to two per item.

"The first intervention in exercise of the right of reply for any delegation on any item at a given meeting should be limited to 10 minutes and the second intervention should be limited to five minutes." (General Assembly decision 34/401)

Mr. BOYER (France) (interpretation from French): I should like to inform the representative of Chile that it never entered my mind that he wished, consciously or unconsciously, to be disagreeable to me. The reason I wanted to speak, in what I called unusual circumstances, was simply to clarify my statement not only on the disarmament question - and I think that was perfectly clear - but also on what I would call internal questions relating to the work of the Committee and its Subcommittees.

I believe that this has been a normal and friendly exchange of views. The representative of Chile may rest assured that there is no shadow of a doubt about that in my mind after this exchange of views.

Mr. PERRI (Brazil) (interpretation from Spanish): I am not speaking in the best of conditions because I am losing my voice. In any case, I am not exercising my right of reply, since I do not feel involved in the present situation. I wish merely to make a few comments that I think are important.

We are at a particularly significant period in the history of international relations. Old myths are being destroyed. Reality is breaking through. At such an important juncture in the history of international relations - when the Powers are in agreement and countries are trying to resolve all the difficult issues that persist but that, in my view, are becoming ever fewer and less important - it is strange that here in a Committee that has always worked for international cooperation and ways of better developing it for peace, we are quarreling. I really do not believe that this is the time to quarrel, because, among other reasons, the Rapporteur is expected to produce a report that is not contentious, and I do not believe there is any reason for this quarrel.

(Mr. Perri, Brazil)

What I wish to say is very simple. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, meeting in Graz in 1991, is a committee that is trying to establish the best possible conditions for peaceful international activity in regard to outer space. That is why I always place so much stress on cooperation. But when we speak of cooperation and peace, the first idea that springs to mind, the idea of cooperation, is a precondition for the existence of the second idea, that of peace. But we cannot disregard the idea of war. War is the antithesis of peace. That is why we also speak of war in this Committee. We speak of war because we are concerned with eliminating all the remnants and aspects, however marginal, of international discord that, in different ways and to varying degrees, is a form of waging war.

(Mr. Perri, Brazil)

I do not believe it is completely inappropriate, when we are discussing ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes, to refer to the work of the Conference on Disarmament. The Conference on Disarmament, as we all know, is the United Nations negotiating forum for disarmament questions, and we are very interested in its work. Brazil is a member of that body as well as of this Committee. As a delegation, we follow the work of both forums.

Unfortunately, not all delegations are, like Brazil, members of both forums. Obviously, for better coordination, they require more complete information and would like it to be provided openly, without obstacles. It is not a matter of blurred fields of competence but of complementary ones. A representative who spoke earlier said that the idea of peace has a much wider scope than the idea of war. It could not be otherwise because to coexist in a world of war would mean that we agreed to self-destruction.

Hence, this Committee does have broad fields of competence, which permit us to consider questions such as the arms race in outer space. That is a legitimate concern, which I share with a number of delegations here - or even with all the delegations here, for I do not believe that, at this juncture in the history of international relations, any delegation would venture to say that the arms race in outer space should continue. No one would say such a thing, because it would be completely out of tune with mankind's aspirations. In the present situation, all countries are expecting a new era of international cooperation and new forms of relationships between countries, outside the context of the cold war and the Second World War, which has now really come to an end. We are going to build another world - that is what I wished to say.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to draw the attention of the Committee - which has proved itself to be a very diligent body in the last hour or so - to its full schedule tomorrow.

I would also remind delegations to submit corrections and additions to the provisional list of participants to the secretariat in writing by tomorrow morning. I again ask delegations wishing to speak on agenda item 6 to inscribe their names on the list of speakers with the secretariat as soon as possible.

It is my intention to begin consideration of items 7 and 9 tomorrow morning, if we have time. I therefore urge those who wish to speak on those items to inscribe their names on the list of speakers with the secretariat.

The meeting rose at 5.05 p.m.